

COMMENTS AND CRITICISMS.

The Next Generation.—Apropos of Dr. Moore's figures (*vide* "Periodical Literature") for the population of Europe 30 years hence, "Army Surgeon," writing in the *Sunday Chronicle*, draws much the same deductions, *i.e.*, that in 1940 there will be 100 millions in Germany as against 60 millions in England, and 40 millions or less in France. But he adds another disquieting suggestion—that Germany has a peasant population of 20 millions, while ours is mainly urban, and therefore less physically fit. Moreover, as Germany is the only nation which has deliberately encouraged vice, so also she is the only one to make it tolerably safe for the vicious.

This means that the spread of the venereal diseases will be most disastrous outside Germany, and it must be remembered that they not only affect the health of the living, but that gonorrhœa is responsible for a large and increasing proportion of sterility to still further lower the birth-rate.

There is also the recent rapid rise in the tuberculosis rate and the generally low level of public health as revealed by recruiting statistics.

Professor Arthur Keith has brought this graphically home by the following contrasting sets of figures.

Normally, any 1,000 young men collected at random from a population of good health and physique should approximately be divided as follows:—

Grade 1	...	...	...	...	700
„ 2	...	...	...	...	200
„ 3	...	...	...	...	75
„ 4	...	...	...	...	25

i.e., 10 per cent. of unfit men should be expected. (Germany had 16 per cent. before the War.)

But a typical recruiting survey from an industrial town yields the following disastrous results:—

Grade 1	...	...	...	...	190
„ 2	...	...	...	...	270
„ 3	...	...	...	...	410
„ 4	...	...	...	...	130

It is certainly time for a Ministry of Health and a health rate.

N. A.